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A.L.P. BROADCAST BY THE PREMIER, HON. DON DUNSTAN, Q.C., M.P.,
FRIDAY, 13TH OCTOBER, 1967, 6.55 P.M., 5-K.A.

GOOD EVENING :

DURING THE LAST WEEK, THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SOME MISUNDERSTANDING AS TO THE REASONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSING TO INTRODUCE A BILL WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WILL DEAL WITH THE CONTROL OF SUNDAY ACTIVITIES BY THE PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT ACT. IT HAD NOT ORIGINALLY BEEN THE INTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO MOVE IN THIS AREA AT ALL, BUT UNDER THE PLAYFORD GOVERNMENT A STEP WAS TAKEN FOR THE LICENSING OF CABARETS - PLACES WHICH IN MANY RESPECTS DID NOT HAVE TO COMPLY WITH THE RIGID REQUIREMENTS AS TO SAFETY OF NORMALLY LICENSED PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT AND WHICH COULD BE OPEN ON SUNDAYS. WHILE THESE CABARETS ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO CHARGE FOR ADMISSION, IN FACT THIS PARTICULAR PROVISION HAS BEEN WIDELY EVADED. SOME OF THE CABARETS FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUEST OF THE INSPECTOR OF LICENSED PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT, FOR ADEQUATE SAFETY PROVISIONS, AND IN ONE CASE A LICENCE WAS

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CANCELLED ON THIS SCORE. FIRE IN SUCH PREMISES HAS SHOWN HOW DANGEROUS IT COULD BE. BUT A LOOPHOLE WAS THEN FOUND BY SOME ENTERPRISING DISCOTHEQUE PROPRIETORS. IF THEY CHARGED FOR ADMISSION AND CALLED THE ADMISSION FEE A SUBSCRIPTION TO A CLUB, IT WOULD INDEED BE DIFFICULT TO PROSECUTE THEM BECAUSE IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SHOW THAT WHAT WAS CONCERNED WAS NOT A CLUB, BUT A PLACE OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. BY MEANS OF THIS EVASION, SERIOUS INROADS UPON THE BUSINESSES OF PROPRIETORS OF PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT WHO WERE COMPLYING WITH ALL THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT, HAVE BEEN MADE, AND NUMBERS OF THESE HAVE INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT THAT UNLESS IT PROMPTLY TAKES ACTION TO CONTROL THE SITUATION, THEY WILL USE THE SAME DEVICE TO EVADE THE PROVISIONS OF THE PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT ACT IN ORDER TO COMPETE WITH THOSE WHO ARE NOW DEPRIVING THEM OF THEIR BUSINESS. THIS MEANS THAT UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT TAKES ACTION THIS SESSION, THE WHOLE SITUATION IN THE CONTROL OF PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE

SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE COMPLETELY OUT OF HAND WITHIN A MATTER OF MONTHS AND LONG BEFORE PARLIAMENT COULD, IN THE NEXT SESSION, DEAL WITH THE ISSUE. AS A RESULT, AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS SESSION OF PARLIAMENT, I WROTE TO THE BISHOP OF ADELAIDE WHO PASSED THE LETTER ON TO THE HEADS OF ALL CHURCHES IN THE STATE, ASKING FOR THE VIEWS OF THE CHURCHES UPON SUNDAY ACTIVITY. WHY WAS IT NECESSARY TO DEAL WITH SUNDAY ACTIVITY GENERALLY AND NOT JUST TO CONCERN ONESELF WITH SAFETY PROVISIONS? BECAUSE THE ONLY WAY OF CLOSING THE LOOPHOLE WILL BE TO BRING CLUBS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT ACT. BONA-FIDE CLUBS WHICH ARE NOT CAUSING ANY DIFFICULTY COULD THEN BE EXEMPTED, BUT OBVIOUSLY ENOUGH ONE CAN'T HAVE SHOALS AND SHOALS OF APPLICATIONS FOR EXEMPTION FROM ALL THE CLUBS WHO MAY HAVE SOME ACTIVITIES ON SUNDAYS.

IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO LAY DOWN WHAT ARE LEGITIMATE ACTIVITIES ON SUNDAYS WITHOUT RESTRICTION AND WHAT NEED TO COME

UNDER SOME KIND OF RESTRICTION OR CONTROL, SO THAT THE EXEMPTIONS OF APPLICATIONS ARE IN THIS MINOR AREA ONLY. IN OTHER WORDS, TO CARRY OUT ANY EFFECTIVE PROTECTION FOR THE PUBLIC, WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE WHOLE RANGE OF SUNDAY ACTIVITY AND WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT IN THIS SESSION OF PARLIAMENT.

THE CHURCHES, VERY HELPFULLY, HAVE SUPPLIED INFORMATION TO THE GOVERNMENT AS TO THEIR ATTITUDE UPON SPORT AND ENTERTAINMENT ON SUNDAYS. THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE CHURCHES INCLUDING THE ANGLICAN CHURCH, THE METHODIST CHURCH, THE SALVATION ARMY, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, AND THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION, HAVE INDICATED THAT AT LEAST THEY ACCEPT FOR THE MOST PART THE PROPOSALS OF THE BOARD OF INQUIRY ON SUNDAY OBSERVANCE IN TASMANIA WHICH REPORTED THIS YEAR. UNDER THAT PROVISION, CERTAIN GAMES WHICH WOULD ATTRACT VERY LARGE CROWDS IN SUCH THINGS AS HORSE-RACING, TROTting, DOG RACING AND THE LIKE, ARE STILL TO REMAIN PROHIBITED ON SUNDAYS, BUT OTHERWISE GAMES CAN BE HELD ON SUNDAYS AND CHARGES FOR ADMISSION TO THE SPORTS GROUNDS CONCERNED COULD BE MADE. IN ADDITION, OTHER

PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT - TOWN HALLS, THEATRES, PICTURE SHOWS, CABARETS AND THE LIKE, MAY BE OPENED AFTER 1 P.M. ON SUNDAYS AND CHARGES FOR ADMISSION MADE. SOME OF THE CHURCHES HAVE PROPOSED SOME MODIFICATIONS OF THESE PROPOSALS AND THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO MODIFY IT TO SOME EXTENT.

I HAVE SENT TO THE LEADERS OF THE CHURCHES A COMPLETE REVIEW OF WHAT THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES AND THE REVIEW OF THE SUBMISSIONS WHICH THEY HAVE MADE TO GOVERNMENT, AND THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED TO PARLIAMENT ON TUESDAY OF NEXT WEEK. THIS IS AN URGENT MEASURE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC. AT THE SAME TIME IT WILL CLOSE A NUMBER OF LOOPHOLES IN THE LAW AND PROVIDE A LAW RELATING TO SUNDAY ACTIVITY WHICH THE CHURCHES OVERWHELMINGLY AGREE IS PROPER AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

GOOD NIGHT.